

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: D.J. (Donna Jo) Soviero, #7737

Information: Bureau staff researched the goals of various organizations which the Applicant indicated her involvement. In her application, the Applicant stated, that she channeled her “activist energies” into the National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC). According to its website, the NWPC describes itself as a “multipartisan, multicultural, grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in politics and creating a power base designed to achieve equality for all women.” The Applicant stated that, as chair person, she was involved in the process to get Geraldine Ferraro picked to run as Vice President in the 1984 election. Bureau staff research found the NWPC to be active at both the federal and state levels. The California NWPC is registered as a lobbyist employer. It has endorsed and funded female candidates for state and local positions, including State Assembly, State Senate, and Board of Equalization in California. It appears that the NWPC has recently funded only Democrats in State Assembly, State Senate, and Board of Equalization elections in California.

Bureau staff asked the Applicant for more information about the Women’s Redistricting Project, which she also mentioned in her application. The Applicant stated that the project was a strategy she developed for women to be more involved and to have a voice in the redistricting process.

Bureau staff contacted Ms. Louise H. Renne, the author of one of the Applicant’s letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Renne confirmed the information in the letter and added that she has known applicant for many years. She met the Applicant when the Applicant was involved with the San Francisco chapter of the National Women’s Political Caucus. Ms. Renne confirmed that she views the Applicant as impartial and not an ideologue.

Recommendation: None

Name and title of person submitting response: Sharon Reilly, Chief Counsel.

Report Date: September 20, 2010